

Library Company of Philadelphia,
Ridgway Branch
900 S. Broad Street, composing block bounded
by Broad, Catherine, Thirteenth and Carpenter
Streets
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1616

HABS
PA,
51-PHILA,
350-

PHOTOGRAPHS
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY
PENNSYLVANIA	PHILADELPHIA	PHILADELPHIA
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME)		HABS NO.
LIBRARY COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA, RIDGWAY BRANCH		PA-1616
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 900 S. Broad Street, composing block bounded by Broad, Catherine, Thirteenth, and Carpenter Streets		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1873-78; opened February 24, 1880	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Addison Hutton, architect (1834-1916)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) The structure is one of America's last Greek Revival buildings built in the late 19th century.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick faced with granite ashlar and with iron columns and beams in book rooms.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Approx. 220' (thirteenth-bay front) X 105'; two stories on raised basement		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Doric octastyle portico on main block and Doric tetrastyle porticoes on flanking pavilions. Gable roofs with skylight system. Floral pattern on tympanum of main pediment. Acherions may have been on the front corners and on tops of the pediments.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Central-hall plan with Ionic colonnade gallery. Originally, the library was in the main hall, and the reading rooms were in the wings.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Altered to recreation center 1973.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE An early view of the structure may be found in Thompson Westcott's <u>The Official Guide Book to Philadelphia</u> , on pages 100-201. Further history of the library may be found in Scharf and Westcott's <u>History of Philadelphia</u> .		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Webster, Richard. <u>Philadelphia Preserved</u> . Philadelphia: Temple University Press. 1976.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION	DATE	
Susan McCown, editor, Historic American Buildings Survey	April 18, 1984	